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| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/017,475   | 12/14/2001  | Geoffrey H. Jenkins  | U0131/7009 RJP      | 5215             |
| 23628  | 7590        | 05/16/2005           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| WOLF GREENFIELD & SACKS, PC<br>FEDERAL RESERVE PLAZA<br>600 ATLANTIC AVENUE<br>BOSTON, MA 02210-2211 |             |                      | CHIN, BRAD Y        |                  |
|  |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|  |             |                      | 1744                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                        |  |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> |  | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/017,475             |  | JENKINS ET AL       |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        |  | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | Brad Y. Chin           |  | 1744                |  |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-5, 11-12, 18, and 23-28, drawn to a sterilizer/disinfector apparatus, classified in class 250, subclass 455.11.
- II. Claims 6-10, 13-17, and 19-22, drawn to the method of sterilizing or disinfecting an object, classified in class 422, subclass 24.
- III. Claims 29-44, drawn to a product or an apparatus to be sterilized, classified in class 435, subclass 304.1.
- IV. Claims 45-47, drawn to a sterilizer/disinfector apparatus in combination with the product or apparatus to be sterilized, classified in class 250, subclass 455.11.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and I are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case, the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process, such as a process that does not automatically; rather through manual operation, flash ultraviolet light onto the object to be sterilized. The apparatus as claimed could also be used to practice another materially different process that uses a different light source for sterilization, such as infrared, visible, or high-intensity light.

Inventions III and I are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case,

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the apparatus of Group I and the objects of Group III are unrelated and have different functions. The apparatus of Group I could be used to sterilize other objects than those disclosed in Group III, such as an eating utensil. Similarly, the objects of Group III could be used as medical instruments independent of the sterilizer/disinfector of Group I.

Inventions IV and I are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the apparatus of Group IV and the apparatus of Group I are unrelated and have different modes of operation. The apparatus of Group IV requires the use of ultraviolet light for sterilization, while the apparatus of Group I could use other sources of light for sterilization, such as infrared, visible, and high-intensity light.

Inventions II and III are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In the instant case, the apparatus/objects of Group III as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process, such as the use of the medical instrument for medical examinations or the use of a drinking glass to drink water.

Inventions IV and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In the instant case, the process as claimed could be practiced by another materially different apparatus, such as an apparatus/object, which does not include a material responsive to ultraviolet light to indicate

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exposure of the object to ultraviolet light. Pre-determined, industry-standard exposure times of a particular object to ultraviolet light could serve as a non-material indicator of successful sterilization of an object with ultraviolet light. Similarly, the apparatus as claimed could be used to practice another and materially different process, such as a process that does not require the automatic, rather through manual operation, flashing of ultraviolet light onto the object to be sterilized.

Inventions III and IV are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the apparatus of Group IV and the apparatus/objects of Group III are unrelated and have different functions. The apparatus of Group IV could be used to sterilize other objects than those disclosed in Group III, such as an eating utensil. Similarly, the objects of Group III could be used as medical instruments independent of the apparatus of Group IV for sterilizing an object.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

A telephone call was made to Mr. Randy J. Pritzker on 10 May 2005 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

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Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brad Y. Chin whose telephone number is 571-272-2071. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday, 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sun (John) Kim, can be reached at 571-272-1142. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

byc  
May 10, 2005

  
JOHN KIM  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER